



Commission on Political Geography

International Geographical Union



Newsletter 2024

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Past events: IGU meetings

IGU-CPG Preconference *Celebrating a world of political difference* in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 22-24 August 2024

The IGU Commission on Political Geography pre-conference ahead of the IGC 2024 in Dublin, was held at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland 22-24 August 2024. The pre-conference gathered almost 100 participants, from almost every continent and over 20 different countries. A rich programme of sessions included papers from scholars at every career stage from graduate students to emeritus professors, and showed the vibrancy of the sub-discipline internationally.

We are grateful to all those whose efforts made the pre-conference such a success, from presenters, to session chairs, to sponsors. [Environment and Planning C](#) generously sponsored the Keynote address by Professor Anna Secor. [Geopolitics](#) sponsored a postgraduate prize, which was won by Simon Wellisch and Songmin Liang of the National University of Singapore, and their paper: "Drawing China: Negotiations of Geopolitics in Online Communities".

The Royal Geographical Society [Political Geography Research Group](#) and Northern Ireland branch paid for a drinks reception and for three postgraduate bursaries. Finally, hospitality was provided by the Queen's University Belfast [Centre for the Study of Ethnic Conflict](#), the Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, and the [School of the Natural and Built Environment](#).



Past events: IGU meetings

The parallel sessions on Thursday 22 August and Friday 23 August discussed the following themes:

- Activism beyond binary
- Alternative geopolitics: practice and performance
- Biographies and geographical thought
- Networks of academic knowledge, expertise and cooperation.
- Boundaries, borders and belonging
- Mobility across Boundaries
- Geographies of migration in times of crisis
- Cultural geopolitics
- Camp geographies in the Balkan routes
- Electoral geographies
- Camp geographies in the Balkan routes
- Electoral geographies
- Territories, identities and geographies of resistances
- Position matters! The Maldives between China and India
- Urban geopolitics and everyday bordering
- Indigenous geopolitics and anti-colonial violence
- Geopolitics and practices of warfare
- Spatial organization at the regional and planetary scales
- Anti-colonialism and solidarity
- Teaching and researching violence, censorship and difference.



Past events: IGU meetings

35th International Geographical Congress *Celebrating a world of difference*, Dublin (Ireland), 24-30 August 2024

<https://ligc2024dublin.org/>



There was a great attendance to the sessions promoted by the Commission on Political Geography. They were presented in the following sessions:

Anticolonial geographies (5 sessions)

Chair person: Gerry Kearns

Political geography & geopolitics - theory, methodology, empirical case studies (2 sessions)

Chairperson: Nuno Morgado

Political geographies of digital transformation (3 sessions)

Chairperson: Georg Glasze

Understanding the relations between geography and power (4 sessions)

Chairperson: Virginie Mamadouh

Geo-setting and geopolitical contexts: considering Chinese and Western approaches to contextualized geopolitical research (2 sessions)

Chairperson: Zhiding Hu

Planning for climate change: the question of scale (2 sessions)

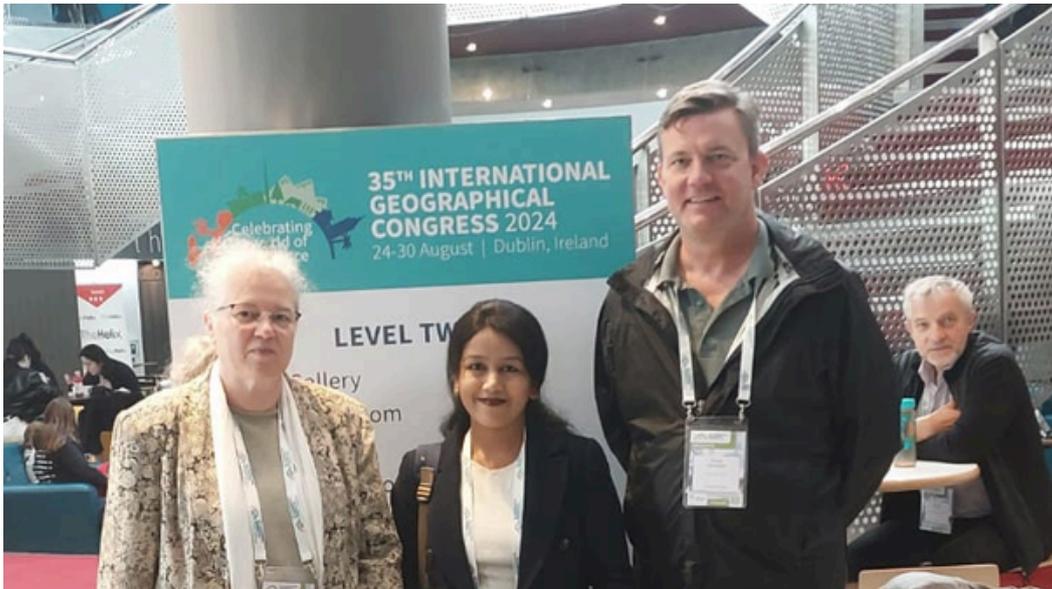
Chairperson: Shirley Howe

Geographies of voting (3 sessions)

Chairperson: Adrian Kavanagh



Past events: IGU meetings



Virginie Mamadouh, co-chair of IGU CPG in this closing term, Prerna Bharthi, PhD, Patna University and Corey Johnson, new co-chair in the ceremony of delivering the IGU CPG travel grant for early career scholars to present her paper Spatio- Temporal Analysis of the Changing Electoral Culture of Women in Bihar.



Professor Anna Secor (Durham University) delivered a keynote address entitled 'Difference and the Politics of Feeling', kindly sponsored by the journal Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space. The Political Geography Research group of the RGS sponsored a reception and the IGU Commission on Political Geography sponsored the fieldtrip in West and East Belfast on Saturday 24 August.

See <https://politicalgeographycommission.com/about/>

<https://politicalgeographycommission.com/2024/08/30/celebrating-a-world-of-political-difference-2>



Future events

IGU Future Events

- IGU Thematic Conference Geo-Spatial Technology, Global Changes and Sustainability, **April 12 – 19 2025**, Cairo, Egypt <https://iguegypt2025.org/>
- IGU Thematic Conference Diverse Geographies of Peace and War in the Contemporary World Santa Marta, Colombia, October 27 - November 1 2025. The CPF will be published in February.
- IGU Regional Conference *Exploring the Earth, Connecting Worlds*, **August 17-21 2026** Istanbul, Türkiye <https://www.irc2026.org/>
- 36th International Geographical Congress *Making Geographical Connections*, Melbourne (Australia), **July 10- 14 2028** <https://igc2028melbourne.org/> and [07.6-IGC2028_Melbourne-31-Jan-2020-C.pdf](https://www.igc2028.org/IGC2028_Melbourne-31-Jan-2020-C.pdf)

Other Events of Interest

- 2025 Annual Conference of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in Detroit, Michigan, USA, **March 16-20 2025** <https://www.aag.org/events/aag2025/>
- 37th Annual PGSG Preconference (Political Geography Specialty Group of the AAG) Detroit, MI– **March 22-23** <http://www.politicalgeography.org/pre-conference/>.
- 2025 Annual Conference of the Association for Borderlands Studies, *Governing across borders: (Re)imagining people, place, and policy*, **April 2-5 2025**, Seattle, WA, USA. On **April 6 2025** there is an optional field trip to Peace Arch Park <https://absborderlands.org/meetings/abs-annual-conference/>
- 2025 Annual Congress of the International Political Science Association IPSA, Seoul, Korea, **July 12-16 2025** <https://www.ipsa.org/events/congress/seoul2025>
- 2025 RGS/IBG Annual International Conference *Geographies of Creativity/Creative Geographies* in Birmingham (UK) **August 26-29 2025** <https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference>
- 10th EUGEO Congress 2025 *Geographies of a Changing Europe*. Vienna, Austria, **September 8-11 2025** <https://www.eugeo2025.eu/>



Publications

The IGU at 100: Past, present and future of political geography

Video project sponsored by the Commission on Political Geography of the International Geographical Union (IGU) for the Centennial of the IGU: A Century of Political Geography, by Corey Johnson and Jenny Berggren, University of North Carolina Greensboro, USA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5Osy5hMgbk>

The full length videos of several interviews have been published in 2023 and are available in Youtube in the following links:

Alec Murphy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU9osQsagPA>

Alison Mountz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ45mponObE>

Anssi Paasi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bN5FacT0cA>

Doris Wastl-Walter https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q_JYQHyntg

John Agnew <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMJqU1fLLI>

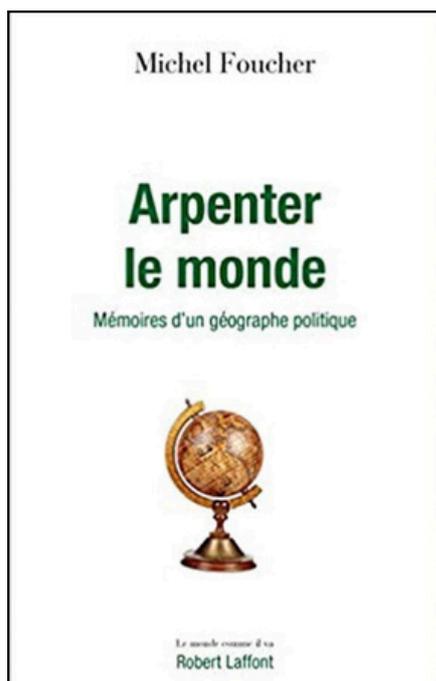
Sanjay Chatuverdi - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT9VJi0F6Ks>

Simon Dalby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73oNWZo5Go4>

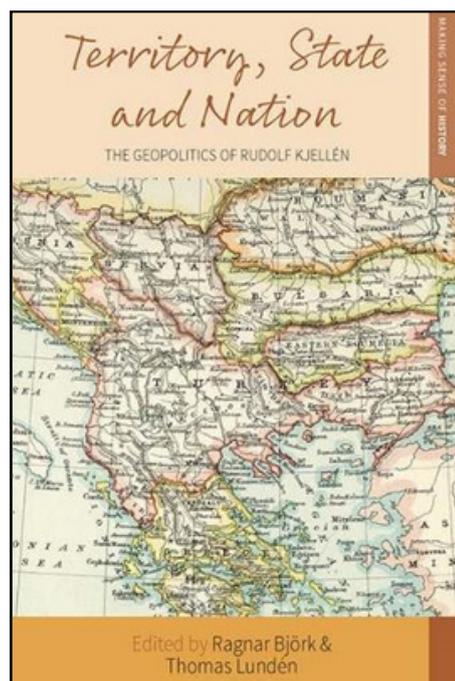
Takashi Yamazaki <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=musevevGvuc>

Virginie Mamadouh <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwwOl0uocU>

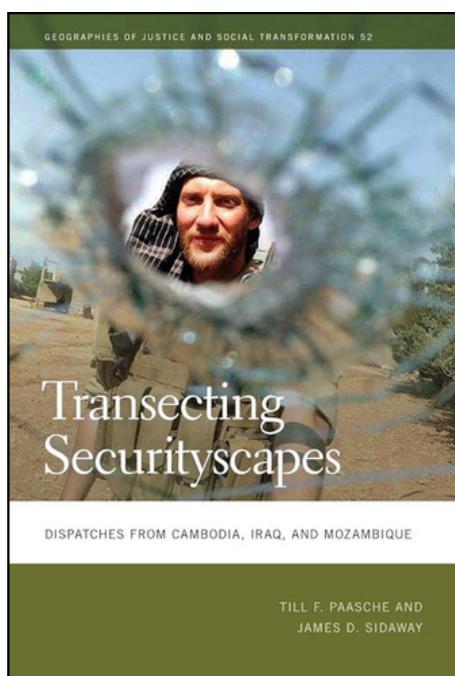




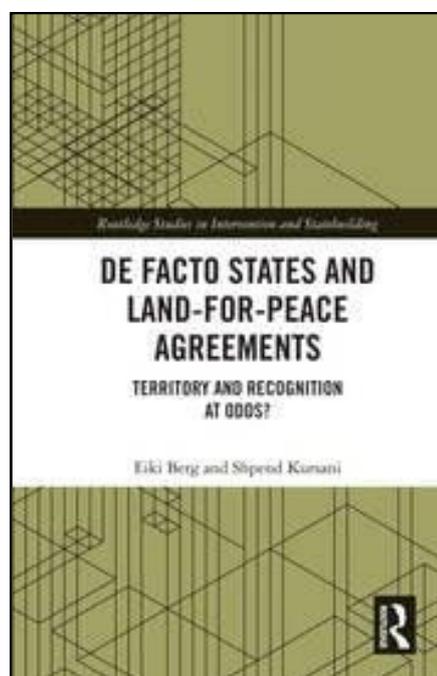
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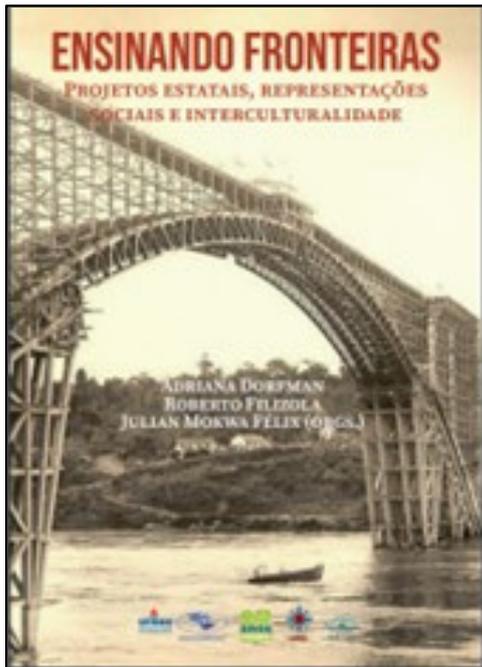


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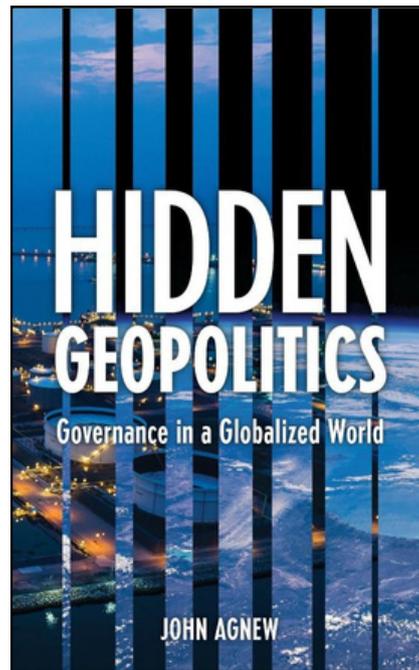


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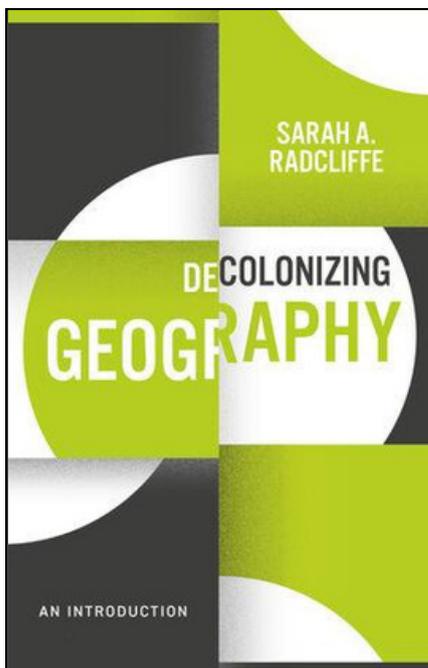




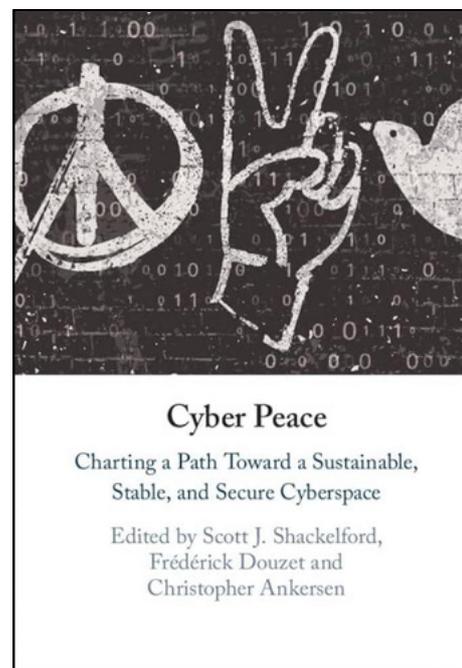
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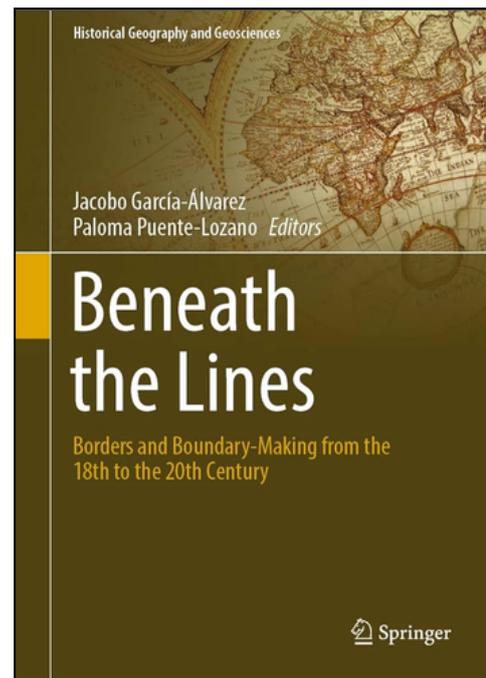


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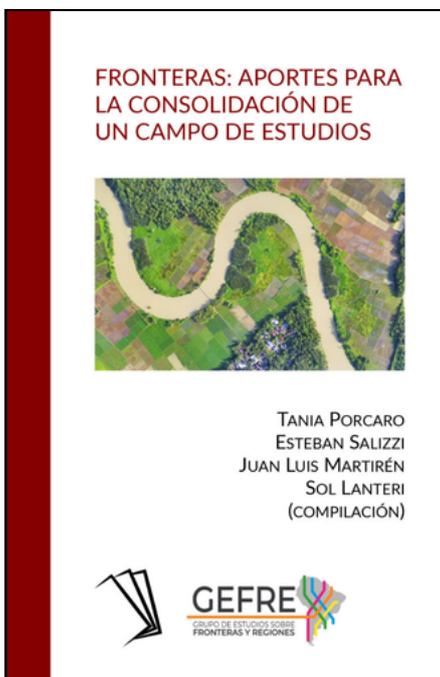




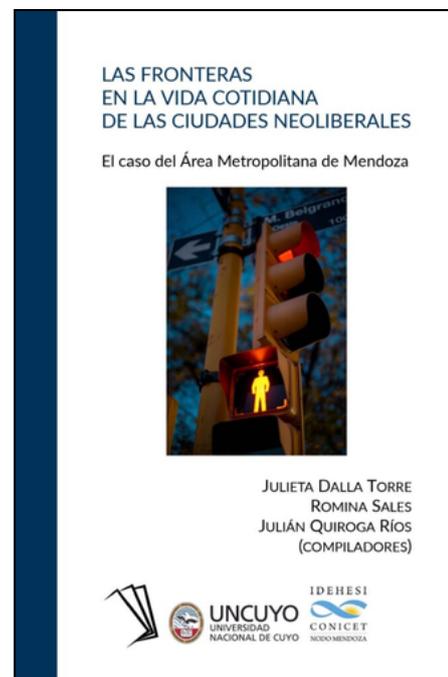
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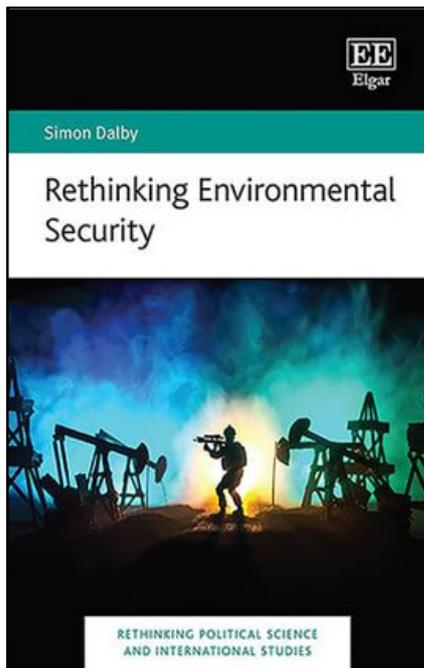


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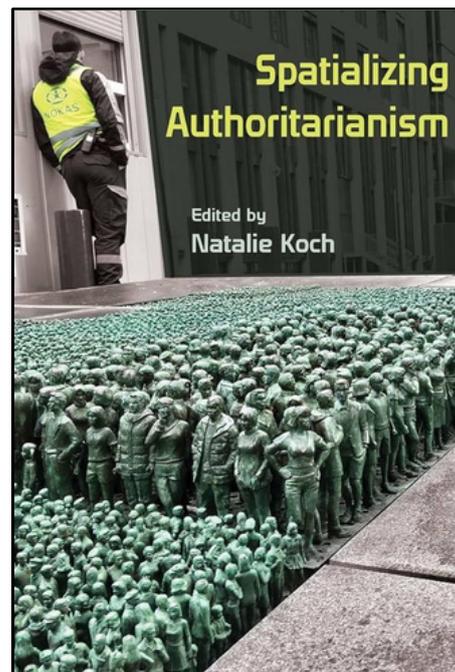


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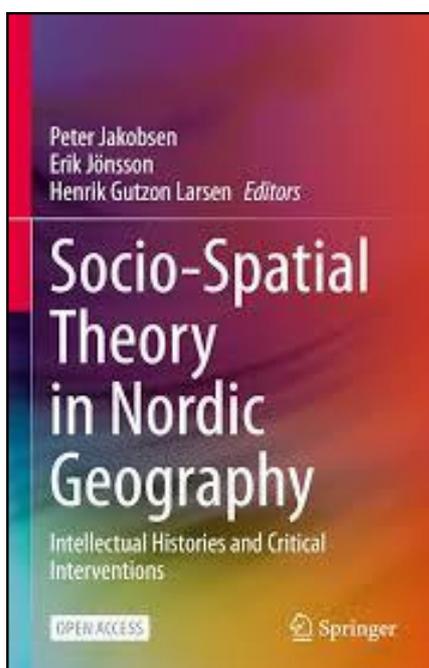




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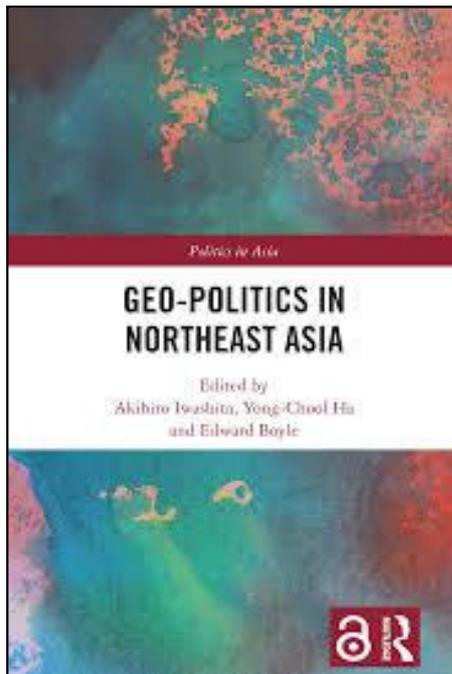


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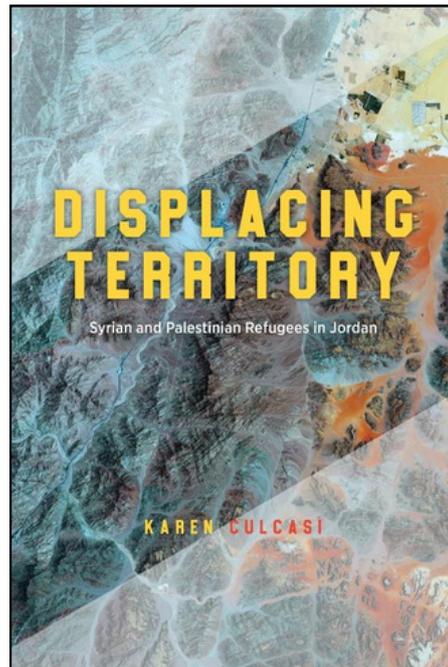


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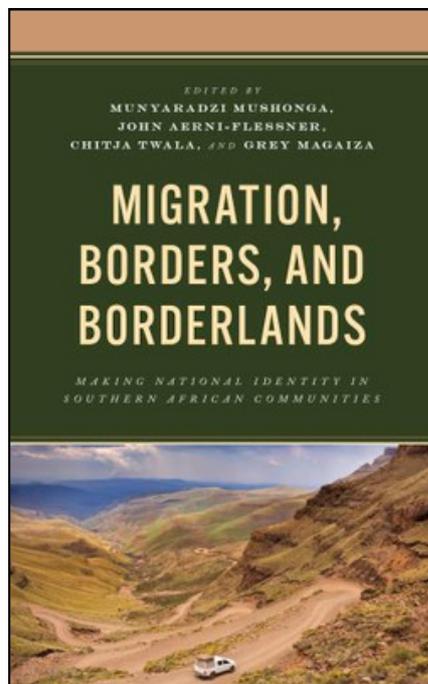




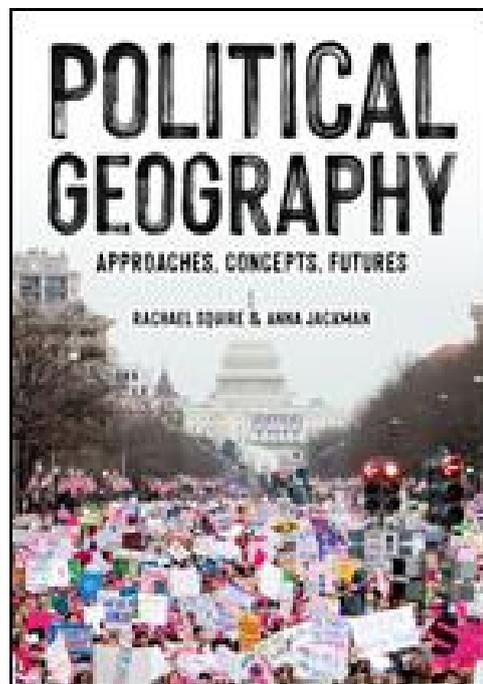
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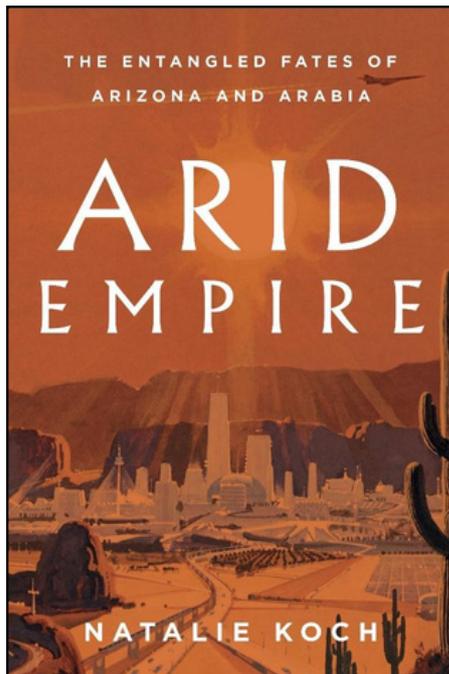


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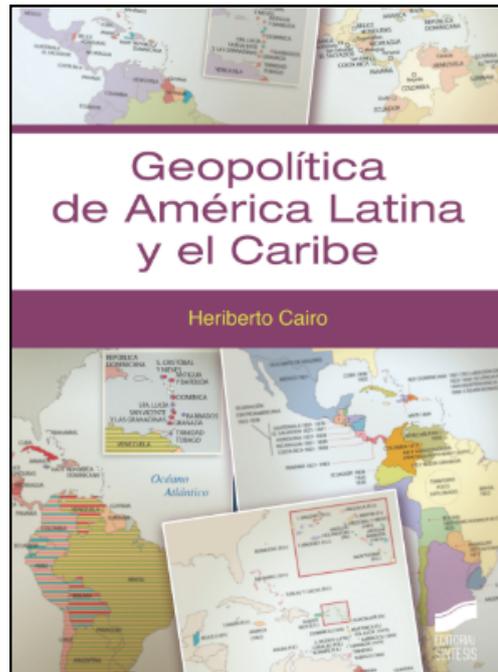


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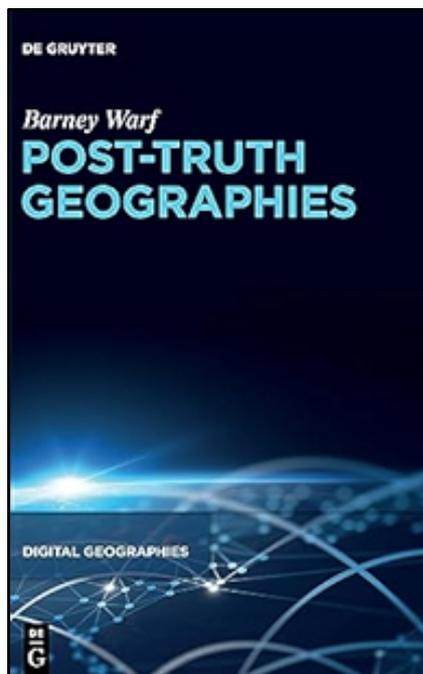




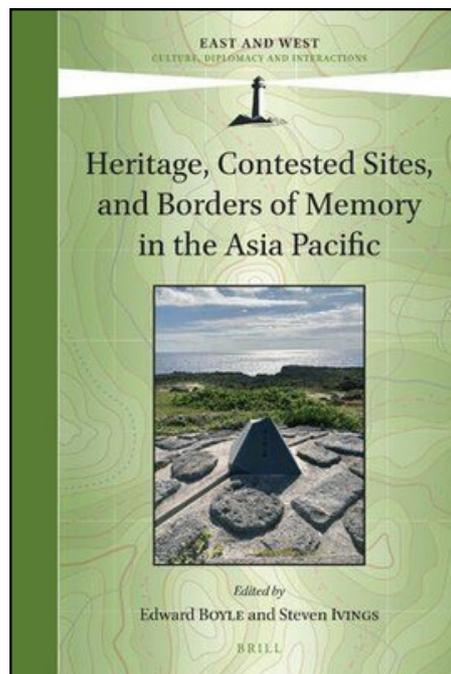
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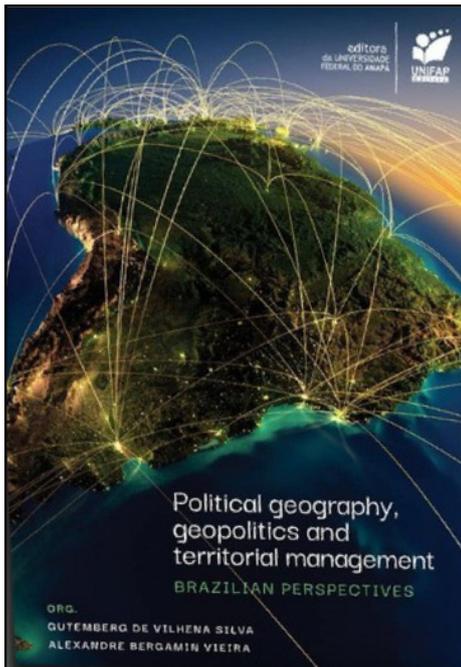


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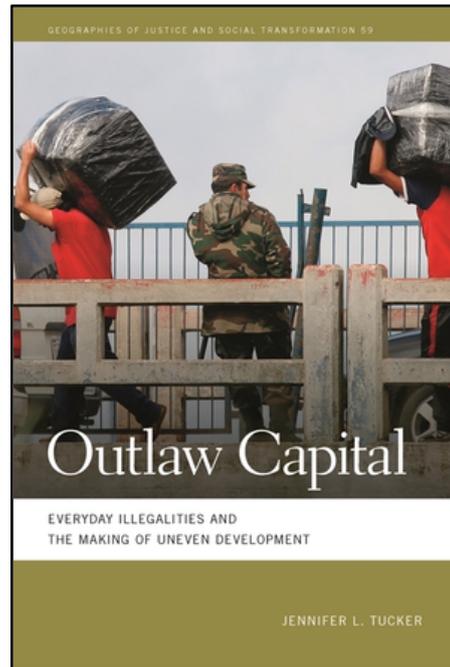


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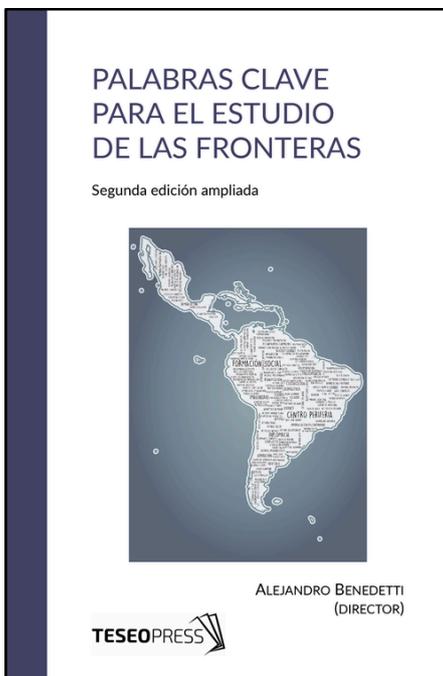




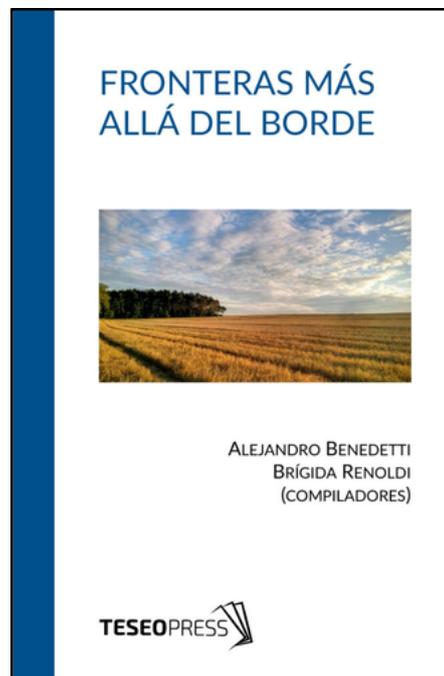
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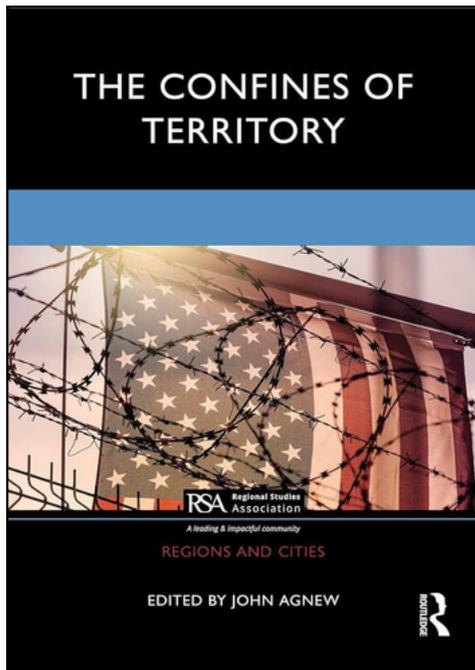


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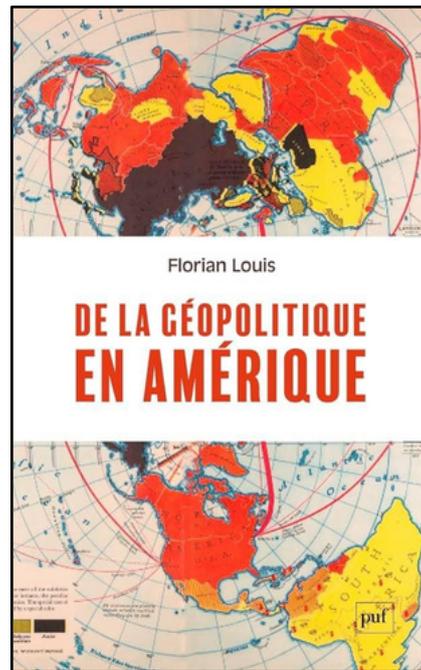


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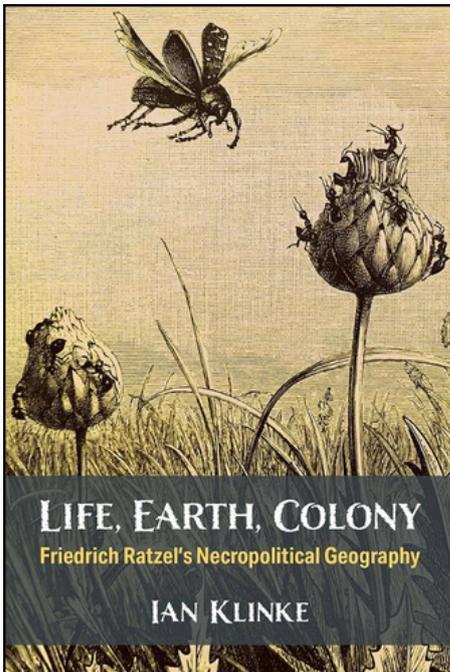




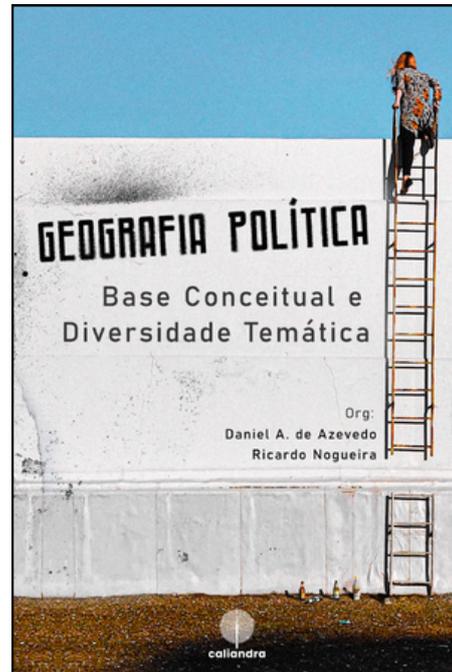
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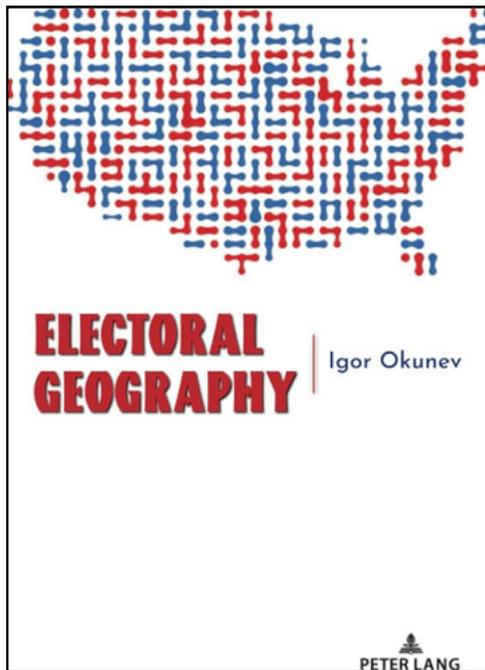


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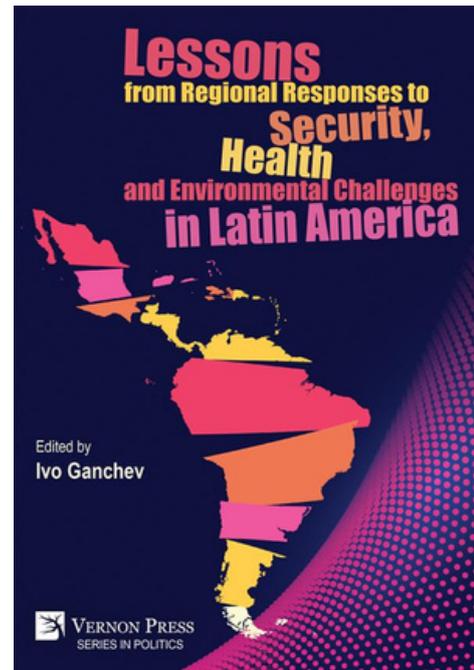


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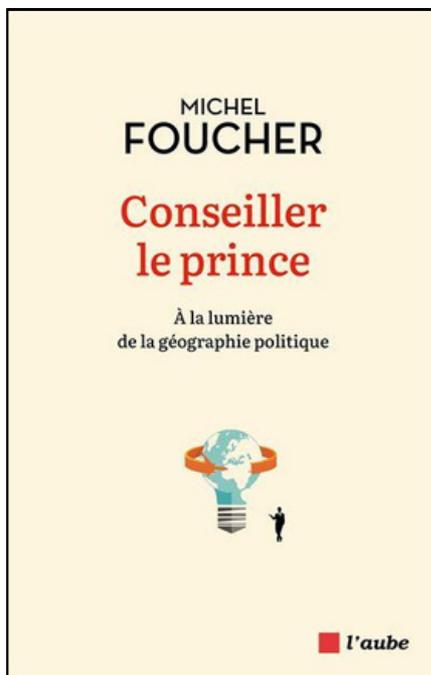




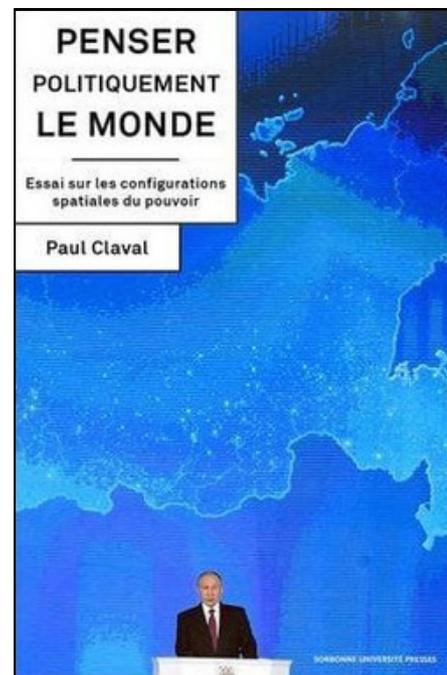
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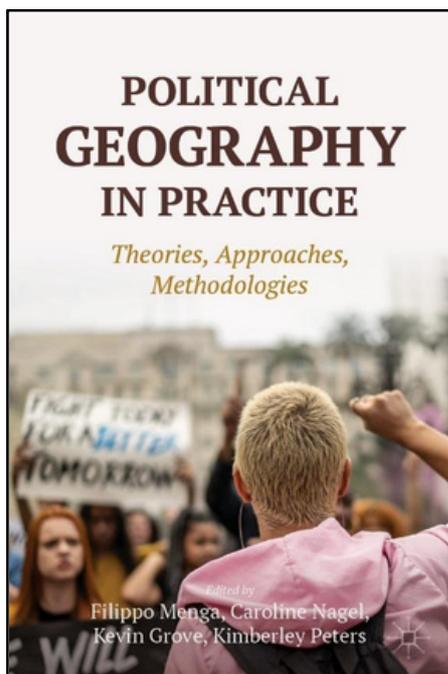


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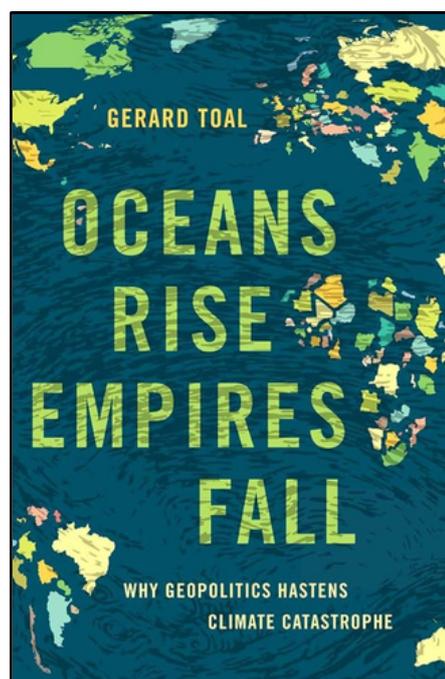


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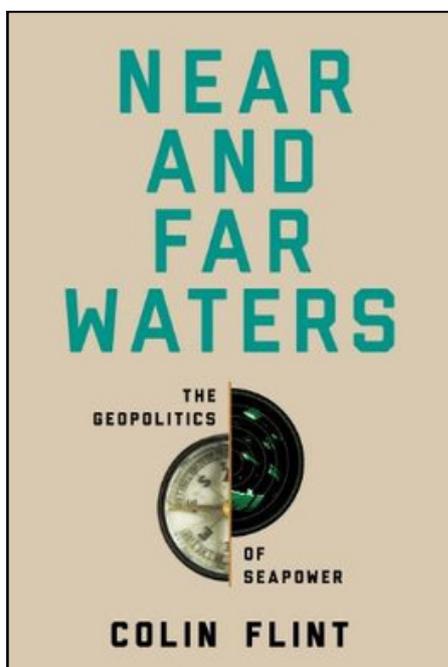




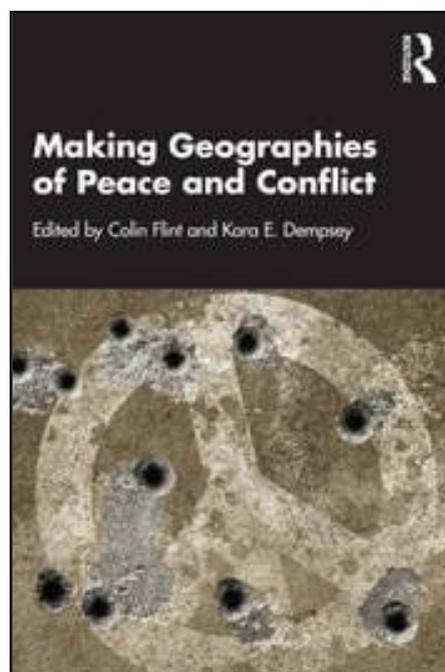
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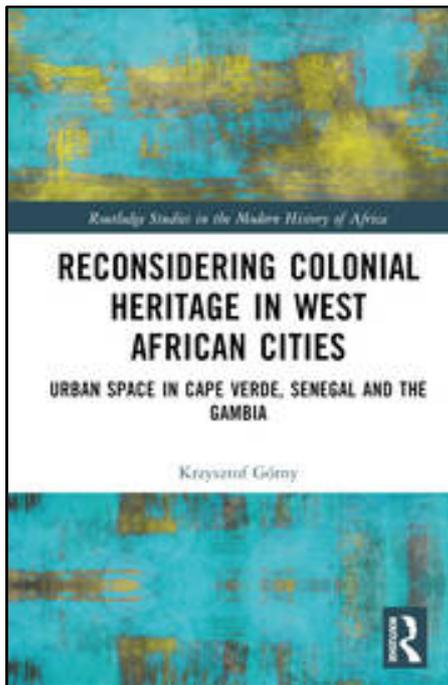


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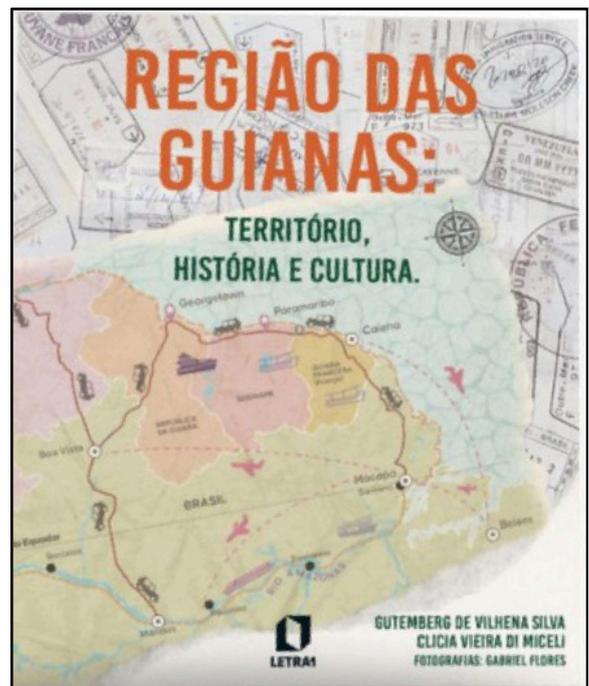


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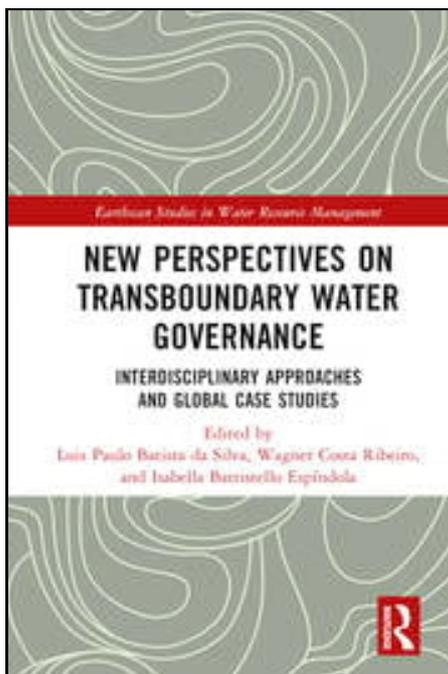




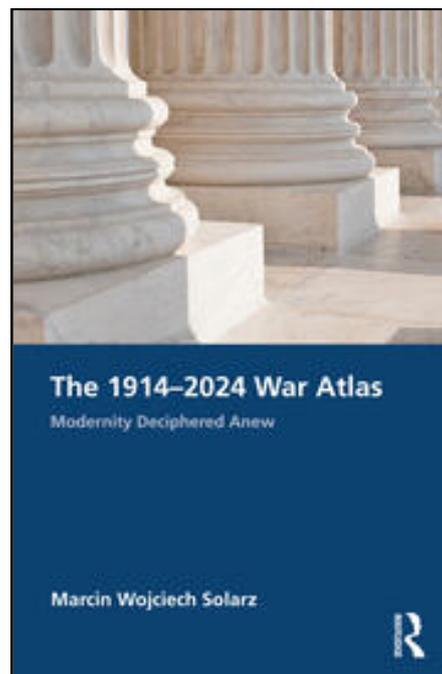
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New Perspectives on
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Governance.



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Atlas
Modernity Deciphered
Anew.



Obituary

In memoriam: Political Geographer and Border Scholar Julian Minghi.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of well-known political geographer and border scholar Julian Minghi.

Julian V. Minghi, born July 26, 1933, beloved professor, mentor, colleague, friend, father, grand-father and life's companion of nearly 64 years of his wife Lee who also studied at the University of Wisconsin, died peacefully on July 10, 2024.

Julian Minghi obtained his Ph.D degree at the University of Washington in 1962. His contribution was significant to the revival and blossoming of political geography in general and to border studies more specifically. His influential article "Boundary Studies in Political Geography" was published in 1963 in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 53 (3):407-428. He was also the coauthor of *The Structure of Political Geography* published with Roger Kasperson in 1969. Julian published extensively on borders and borderlands. He was especially interested in the border between Italy and Slovenia. He also published many volumes about (European) borders and borderlands such as *The Geography of Border Landscapes* (co-authored with Dennis Rumley in 1991) and *The New European Frontiers : Social and Spatial (Re)integration Issues in Multicultural and Border Regions* (coedited with Anssi Paasi, Péter Balogh and Milan Bufon in 2014) .

He was Professor at The University of South Carolina based in Columbia, and dean of the Department of Geography. His influential role as political geographer, academic and mentor was celebrated by his own university and by the Political Geography Specialty Group (PGSG) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG).

The Minghi Distinguished Lectureship of the USC was created after his retirement in 2001 to recognize outstanding scholars who have made significant scholarly contributions to the discipline of geography. Awardees include many political geographers, such as Alec Murphy (University of Oregon, co-chair of the IGU Commission of Political Geography 2016-2020) (see the website of the USC at https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/geography/my_geography/minghi_lecture/index.php).

The Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award of the PGSG was established in the mid 2000s: This award is given to the author(s) of the best book published during the previous calendar year in the field of political geography. Awardees include Lynn Staeheli, Linda Peake, and Eleonore Kofman for their edited volume [Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography](#) (Routledge) in 2005 and Natalie Koch for her monograph [Arid Empire: The Entangled Fates of Arizona and Arabia](#) (Verso) in 2024. (See the website of the AAG PGSG at <https://www.politicalgeography.org/past-winners/>).

Julian was also very present in international gatherings, including International Geographical Congresses and conferences of the IGU Commission on Political Geography (and its predecessors the Study group and the Commission on the World Political Map) and border conferences. For example the volume on *The Geography of Border landscapes* (Rumley & Minghi 1991) arose out of the final meeting of the Study group on the World Political Map in Perth, Australia in August 1988. More importantly many generations of (political) geographers benefited from personal exchanges during these events, from his generosity and his kind mentoring.



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In December 2024 there were 220 subscribers to the mailing list from over 60 countries on all continents (Italy, USA, France and Poland being the most present).



The Commission has a website

The website of the Commission can be found at

<https://politicalgeographycommission.wordpress.com/>

The new webmaster is: Jonathan Harris, jonathan.a.harris@kcl.ac.uk

The Commission has a mailing list

In order to subscribe to the CPG new mailing list, please send an empty email to IGU-CPG-join@list.uva.nl

Or an email to the administrator: v.d.mamadouh@uva.nl

The Commission has a Facebook group

IGU CPG Commission on Political Geography

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456054597763023/>

To become a member, please join Facebook and send a request to the group administrator. elena.dellagnese@unimib.it

Wishing the new steering committee all the best for 2024-2028.

This newsletter was prepared by Adriana Dorfman and Virginie Mamadouh, mostly with news shared through the mailing list of the Commission on Political Geography.

Announcements about events and publications can be sent to the list or directly to us for the next Newsletter.

We thank Eduardo Haubert (UFRGS) for his help with the graphic design of the newsletter.

Cover cartoon by Moa Guterres.

